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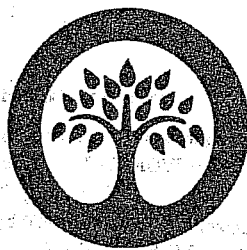
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**WEBSTER'S
NEW WORLD
DICTIONARY**
OF THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE

DAVID B. GURALNIK, *Editor in Chief*

WILLIAM COLLINS + WORLD PUBLISHING CO., INC.

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY, Second College Edition

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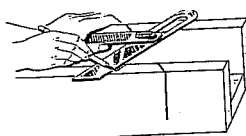
bêtise

bê-tise (be tēz') *n.*, *pl.* -tises' (-tēz') [Fr. < *bête*, beast < OFr. *beste*: see **BEAST**] 1. a foolish act, remark, suggestion, etc. 2. stupidity or foolishness
Bet-je-man (bech'ə mən), Sir John 1906-; Eng. poet; poet laureate (1972-)
be-to-ken (bi tō'k'n) *vt.* [ME. *belocnen* < *be-* + *loknen* < OE. *laccian*, to mark < *lacen*, TOKEN] 1. to be a token or sign of; indicate; show 2. to show beforehand; presage
bet-o-ny (bet'n ē) *n.*, *pl.* -nies [ME. *betonike* < OE. *betonice* < LL. *betonica*, altered < L. *vettonica*, after the *Vettones*, an ancient tribe in Gaul] any of a genus (*Stachys*) of plants of the mint family, having spikes of white, yellow, or lavender flowers and formerly used in medicine
be-tray (bi trā') *vt.* [ME. *bitraien* < *be-* + *traien*, betray < OFr. *trair* < L. *tradere*, to hand over: see **TREASON**] 1. *a*) to help the enemy of (one's country, cause, etc.); be a traitor to *b*) to deliver or expose to an enemy traitorously 2. to break faith with; fail to meet the hopes of [he betrayed my trust in him] 3. to lead astray; deceive; specif., to seduce and then desert 4. to reveal unknowingly or against one's wishes [his face betrays his fear] 5. to reveal or show signs of; indicate [the house betrays its age] 6. to disclose secret information, confidential plans, etc.) —**SYN.** see **DECEIVE**, **REVEAL** —**be-tray'al** *n.* —**be-tray'er** *n.*
be-troth (bi trōth', -trōth') *vt.* [ME. *bitrouthen* < *be-* + *trouthen* < OE. *treowth*, truth] 1. to promise in marriage [to betroth a daughter] 2. [Archaic] to promise to marry
be-troth-al (-əl) *n.* a betrothing or being betrothed; mutual pledge to marry; engagement
be-trothed (-trōthd', -trōtht') *adj.* engaged to be married —*n.* the person to whom one is betrothed
bet-ta (bet'a) *n.* [ModL.] any of a genus (*Betta*) of brightly colored, tropical, freshwater fishes of SE Asia, esp. an aquarium species (*Betta splendens*)
bet-ter (bet'ər) *adj. compar.* of **GOOD** [ME. *bettere*, *betere* < OE. *betera*: see **BEST**] 1. of a more excellent sort; surpassing another or others 2. more suitable, more desirable, more favorable, more profitable, etc. 3. being more than half; larger [it cost the better part of his pay] 4. improved in health or disposition —*adv. compar.* of **WELL**: 1. in a more excellent manner; in a more suitable way 2. in a higher degree; to a greater extent 3. more [it took better than an hour] —*n.* 1. a person superior in authority, position, etc. [obey your betters] 2. the thing, condition, circumstance, action, etc. that is more excellent, more suitable, etc. 3. advantage [to get the better of a rival] —*vt.* 1. to outdo; surpass 2. to make better; improve —*vi.* to become better —**SYN.** see **IMPROVE** —**better off** 1. in a better situation or condition 2. having more income, wealth, etc. —**for the better** to a better or improved condition —**get (or have) the better of** 1. to outdo 2. to outwit —**had better** ought to; would be prudent or wise to
bet-ter (bet'ər) *n.* same as **BETTOR**
better half [Slang] one's wife or, less often, one's husband
bet-ter-ment (-mənt) *n.* 1. a making or being made better; improvement 2. Law an improvement that increases the value of property and is more extensive than mere repairs
Bet-ter-ton (bet'ər tən), Thomas 1635?-1710; Eng. actor
bet-ter (-ər) *n.* a person who bets
Bet-ty (bet'tē) *n.* a feminine name: see **ELIZABETH**
be-tween (bi twēn') *prep.* [ME. *bitwene* < OE. *betwēonum* < *be*, by + *twēonum*, dat. of **tweon*, akin to Goth. *tweihnai*, by twos, in pairs: for IE. base see **TWO**] 1. in or through the space that separates (two things) 2. in or of the time, amount, or degree that separates (two things); intermediate to [between blue and green] 3. that connects or relates to [a bond between friends] 4. along a course that connects [the road runs between here and there] 5. by the joint [in the action of between them they landed the fish] 6. in the combined possession of [they had fifty dollars between them] 7. to the exclusion of all but both of [they divided it between them] 8. from one or the other of [choose between love and duty] 9. because of the combined effect of [between work and studies she has no time left] *Between* is sometimes used where more than two are involved, if the relationship is thought of as of each individually with each of the others [a treaty between four powers] —*adv.* 1. in an intermediate space, position, or function 2. in an intermediate time; in the interval —**between ourselves** in confidence; as a secret: also **between you and me** —in the midst of
be-tween-brain (-brān') *n.* same as **DIENCEPHALON**
be-tween-times (-timz') *adv.* at intervals: also **be-tween-whiles**
be-twixt (bi twixt') *prep., adv.* [ME. *bitwix* < OE. *betwix* < *be-* + a form related to *tweogen*, **TWAIN**; -i is unhistoric] *between*: now archaic except in the phrase **betwixt and between**, in an intermediate position; neither altogether one nor altogether the other
Beu-lah (byōō'lā) [Heb. *be'ālāh*, married] 1. the land of Israel: Isa. 62:4 2. in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, a country of peace and rest near the end of life's journey: short for **Land of Beulah** 3. a feminine name
bev, Bev (bev) *n.*, *pl.* bev, Bev [B(ILLION) E(LECTRON-) V(OLTS)] a unit of energy equal to one billion (10⁹) electron-volts
be-v-a-tron (bev'ə trān') *n.* [**BEV** + *-tron*, as in **CYCLOTRON**] a synchrotron for accelerating protons and other atomic particles to an energy level of six or more bev

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bezoar

bev-el (bev'l) *n.* [prob. < OFr. **baivel*, dim. < *baif*, gaping: see **BAV**] 1. a tool consisting of a rule with a movable arm, used in measuring or marking angles and in fixing surfaces at an angle: also



BEVEL

bevel square 2. an angle other than a right angle 3. sloping part or surface, as the angled edge of plate glass —*adj.* sloped; beveled —*vt.* -eled or -elled, -el-ing or -el-ling to cut to an angle other than a right angle —*vi.* to slope at an angle; slant

bevel gear a gearwheel meshed with another so that their shafts are at an angle of less than 180°

be-ver-age (bev'rij, -ər ij) *n.* [ME. < OFr. *bevrage* < *bevre* < L. *bibere*, IMBIBE] any liquid for drinking, esp. other than water



BEVEL GEAR

Bev-er-idge (bev'ər ij) 1. Albert Jere-miah, 1862-1927; U.S. statesman & historian 2. Sir William Henry, 1st Baron, 1879-1963; Eng. economist, born in India

Bev-er-ley, Bev-er-ly (bev'ər lē) [**BEV-ER-LEY**, BEAVER¹ + *ley*, LEA¹] a feminine name

Bev-er-ly (bev'ər lē) city in NE Mass.: pop. 38,000

Beverly Hills [after *Beverly Farms*, in Mass.] city in Calif., surrounded by Los Angeles: pop. 34,000

bevy (bev'y) *n.*, *pl.* bevies [ME. *bevey* < Anglo-Fr. *bevee* < OFr., a drinking bout < *bevre*: see **BEVERAGE**] 1. a group, esp. of girls or women 2. a flock: now chiefly of quail 3. any group or collection —**SYN.** see **GROUP**

be-wail (bi wā'l) *vt.* [ME. *biwailen*: see **BE-** & **WAIL**] to wail over or complain about; lament; mourn

be-ware (bi wər') *vi.*, *vt.* -ward', -war'ing [associated with **BE-** & **WARE**, but prob. < OE. *bewarian*, to keep watch < *be-* + *warian*, to watch, be wary] to be wary or careful (of); be on one's guard (against)

be-wigged (bi wigd') *adj.* wearing a wig

be-wil-der (bi wil'dər) *vt.* [**BE-** + **WILDER**] 1. to confuse hopelessly, as by something complicated or involved; befuddle 2. [Archaic] to cause to be lost, as in a wilderness —**SYN.** see **PUZZLE** —**be-wil-der-ing-ly** *adv.*

be-wil-der-ment (-mənt) *n.* 1. the fact or condition of being bewildered 2. a confusion; jumble

be-witch (bi witch') *vt.* [ME. *biwischen* < *be-* + *wicchen* < OE. *wiccan* < *wicca*: see **WITCH**] 1. to use witchcraft or magic on; cast a spell over 2. to attract and delight irresistibly; enchant; fascinate; charm —**be-witch'ing** *adj.* —**be-witch'ing-ly** *adv.*

be-witch-ment (-mənt) *n.* 1. power to bewitch 2. a bewitching or being bewitched 3. a spell that bewitches

Also **be-witch'er-y** (-ər ē), *pl.* -er-ies

be-wray (bi rā') *vt.* [ME. *biwreien* < *be-* + OE. *wreagan*, to inform] [Archaic] to divulge; reveal; betray

Bex-ley (beks'lē) city in SE England, near London: pop. 90,000

bey (bā) *n.* [Turk. *bey*, *beg*] 1. in the Ottoman Empire, the governor of a minor Turkish district or province 2. a Turkish title of respect and former title of rank 3. the former native ruler of Tunis

Beyle (bā), **Ma-rie Hen-ri** (mā rē' ān rē') see **STENDHAL**

be-yond (bi yānd') *prep.* [ME. *biyonde* < OE. *begeondan* < *be-* + *geond*, yonder, across] 1. on or to the far side of; farther on than; past [beyond the river] 2. farther on in time than; later than [beyond the visiting hours] 3. outside the reach, possibility, or understanding of [beyond help, beyond belief] 4. more or better than; exceeding; surpassing [a success beyond one's expectations] 5. in addition to [he had no experience beyond school training] —*adv.* 1. farther out; farther away 2. in addition; besides —**the beyond** 1. whatever is beyond or far away 2. whatever follows death; afterlife: often the great beyond

Bey-ruth (bā rūt', bā'rūt') same as **BEIRUT**

bez-ant (bez'nt, bē zant') *n.* [ME. *besant* < OFr. *besant* < L. *byzantius* (*nummus*), Byzantine (coin) < *Byzantium*] 1. the solidus, a gold coin issued in Byzantium: see **SOLIDUS** (sense 1) 2. *Archit.*, Heraldry an ornamental flat disk or circular figure representing such a coin

bez-antler (bez, bāz) [**BEZ-** < L. *bis*, twice + **ANTLER**] the second branch from the base of a deer's horn

***be-zazz** (bē zāz') *n.* same as **PIZZAZZ**

bez-el (bez'l) *n.* [OFr. **bisel* (Fr. *biseau*), sloping edge < *biais*, bias] 1. a sloping surface, as the cutting edge of a chisel 2. the slanting faces of a cut jewel, esp. those of the upper half 3. a) the groove and flange holding a gem or a watch crystal in place b) a movable rim on a watch or clock that can be rotated so that marks on it can record certain kinds of data

Bé-ziers (bē zēz') city in S France: pop. 74,000

be-zique (bi zēk') *n.* [Fr. *bésigue*; ? akin to It. *bazzica*, card game < *bazza*, trick (at cards) < Ar. *bazza*, to capture] a card game resembling pinochle, but using a double deck of 64 cards, two of each card above the six

be-zoar (bē'zōr) *n.* [Fr. *bézoar* < Sp. *bezoar* < Ar. *bāzahr* < Per. *pādzahr* < *pād*, expelling + *zahr*, poison] a concretion found in the stomach or intestines of some animals, esp.